

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the world has watched over recent months as the brutal dictatorship in Burma has arrested and killed Buddhist monks and democracy activists and as it continues to attack, rape and kill ethnic minorities. The House has just passed an excellent bill imposing further sanctions on Burma, the JADE Act.

Amazingly, in the Senate, leading Democrats don't want the House version of the bill. Instead, they want to allow for cash money to go to the ruling regime for humanitarian purposes. Hello? Aid that goes through the regime does not get to the people of Burma. The rulers simply enrich themselves with any moneys coming into the country.

In addition, certain Senators wish to give the Treasury Department an opening one could drive a Mack truck through so that Treasury could make any regulation it likes regarding U.S. money going into Burma. I hope those Senators will read the reports and look at the photos from Burma. The democracy activists, monks and ethnic minorities are the ones who should get our support, not the brutal military regime.

#### RECOGNIZING ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND FORMER COACH FRANK BROYLES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, as he prepares for retirement at the end of this year, it is impossible to think about Razorback athletics and imagine what it would be like without Coach Frank Broyles. His achievements on the field are numerous and distinctive. However, it is his battle off the field that inspires me even more. In 1999, Coach Broyles' wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and, needless to say, this battle changed his family forever. Studying defenses on the football field for decades prepared Coach Broyles as he looked for a way to attack perhaps his greatest challenge yet.

After years of caring for his wife and receiving calls and letters from supporters, he sat down and compiled his most impressive playbook ever: "The Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers: A Practical Tip Guide." His playbook has helped countless families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's, letting them know that their fight with this disease is not something they must face alone. In 2004, Coach Broyles' wife, Barbara Broyles, succumbed to the disease, which still has no cure.

His accomplishments in college football will never be forgotten, but the hope and faith he has given to families across this Nation coping with Alz-

heimer's will leave a lasting impact on our society for generations to come.

#### EARMARKS FOR REELECTION CAMPAIGNS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, one of my astute colleagues recently said, "One of the toughest parts of being a Member of Congress is remembering what we are supposed to be outraged about." I thought about this yesterday when I heard the report that surprise, surprise, earmarks were being used to help Members get reelected. The reason that is treated with kind of a ho-hum is because, as it turns out, that is one of the more noble explanations as to why earmarks are used.

With the reporting that is going on about earmarks being tied to campaign contributions, or chairmen, or people in leadership positions getting tens of millions of dollars in earmarks for favored companies or organizations in their district, it seems that we have simply gone too far when we don't recognize this as a problem.

I would call on my colleagues in the new year to have a moratorium on earmarks. Let's put a brake on this process until we can put a process in place to adequately vet these. There is no noble purpose for the contemporary practice of earmarking. Try as we might, we aren't coming up with one.

#### THE DEMOCRATIC YEAR IN REVIEW

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. The first year of the new Democratic majority is coming to a close, and we have already set our Nation in a new direction. We increased the minimum wage, improving the lives of millions of American workers. We increased fuel efficiency standards and set a new path for energy independence that will create new jobs and enhance our economic competitiveness. We enacted the largest college financial aid expansion since 1944, bringing the American Dream within the reach of millions of children in our country. And we are about to pass the largest increase in veterans health care in American history in honor of the service and commitment of all of our veterans.

We accomplished all of this in spite of the stubborn resistance of Republican obstructionists who have tried to undermine our efforts at every opportunity. We did this despite the President's refusal to compromise.

This year is coming to a close, but our commitment to change will continue. Hard-working American families can be assured that when we return in January, the Democratic majority will continue to fight for their and our priorities.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, secure and hopeful new year to all Americans. God bless our great Nation.

#### THE OKLAHOMA STANDARD

(Ms. FALLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, this past week the State of Oklahoma experienced a severe ice storm that left over 600,000 homes and businesses without power or heat. As you can imagine, Oklahomans have had a very challenging time. Today, I want to thank the people of Oklahoma for helping each other and commend the various generous volunteers and organizations that came to their aid.

Since the disaster of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995, the people of my great State are said to have created what is known as "the Oklahoma standard," rallying to help each other in times of need, and certainly this past week, to week and a half, has been no exception.

I want to personally thank Governor Henry and President Bush for working together to ensure that the proper Federal aid disaster relief has come to Oklahoma. And I would also like to commend the State Office of Emergency Management, FEMA representatives and the State Corporation Commission who kept us informed and on track as power loss was reported and power was restored.

I especially want to commend the utility crews who worked tirelessly in their efforts to restore power. I want to thank the hundreds of utility workers from other States who came to help. Thank you for leaving your homes and families during this holiday season.

Madam Speaker, there are so many organizations to thank who went above and beyond to help the State of Oklahoma, churches, synagogues and charities. The Southern Baptist Convention, United Way of Central Oklahoma, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, to name just a few, worked to provide food, shelter and other supplies, and all went beyond their usual call of duty to clear the road to recovery.

Thank you so much, and may God bless you.

#### MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE REFORM

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concerns that inadequate oversight, deficient procedures, and ethical lapses at the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) are costing the Federal Government millions of dollars each year.

The MMS is responsible for negotiating, implementing and overseeing all